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THE
L O N D O N
CORRESPONDING SOCIETIES.
ADDRESSES AND RESOLUTIONS,
(Reprinted.)

ASSURED that man, Individual man, may justly claim Liberty as his birthright, we naturally conclude that, as a member of Society; it becomes his indispensable duty to preserve inviolate that Liberty for the benefit of his fellow citizens and of his and their posterity:

For, as in associating he gave up certain of his Rights, in order to secure the possession of the remainder and *voluntarily* yielded up only as much as was necessary for the general good—so he may not barter away the Liberties of his posterity, nor desert the common cause by *tamey* and *supinely* suffering to be purloined from the people of whom he makes a part, their natural and-unalienable RIGHTS of RESISTANCE TO OPPRESSION and of SHARING IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY—without the full and uninterrupted exercise of which RIGHTS, no man can with truth call himself or his Country free.

Yet of late, the very men who have dared to Oppress the nation, have also dared to advance, that, *all resistance to their Oppression is illegal*; while, on the other hand, FRAUD OR FORCE, sanctioned by Custom and blind submission, has withdrawn and now withdraws from a very great majority of the Tax-paying, Industrious and useful inhabitants of Great Britain, the RIGHT of Sharing in the Government of *their own* Commonwealth, and in the management of *their own* Interests.

The few who are now permitted to elect Representatives and those who are chosen by this *small number of Electors*, disgrace the country at large by *buying and selling Votes*, by *corrupting and*

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being corrupted—the former by their behaviour at Elections, and the latter by their conduct in the Senate—more than sufficient to prove, that THE NATION IS UNREPRESENTED and that THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS TOTALLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL—if by the word Constitution, any thing is meant.

Roused at last from their Torpor, and eager to remedy the Evil, various, numerous, and Respectable Societies have been formed by the People, in different parts of the Kingdom, several have also arisen in the Metropolis, and among them *the London Corresponding Society*, with modesty but with firmness, claim the attention of their Country to the following Resolutions.

RESOLVED,

I. That, every Individual has a Right to share in the Government of that Society of which he is a member—unless incapacitated.

II. That, nothing but non-age, privation of Reason, or an offence against the general laws of society, can incapacitate him.

III. That, it is no less the **RIGHT** than the **DUTY** of every Citizen to keep a watchful Eye on the Government of his Country, that the Laws by being multiplied do not degenerate into *Oppression*; and that those who are entrusted with the Government, do not substitute *private Interest* for *Public Advantage*.

IV. That, the People of Great Britain are not *effectually* represented in Parliament.

V. That in consequence of a *partial, unequal*, and therefore *inadequate Representation*, together with the *corrupt* method in which Representatives are elected; *Oppressive Taxes, unjust Laws, restrictions of Liberty and wasting of the public money*, have ensued.

VI. That, the only Remedy to those Evils, is a fair, equal, and impartial Representation of the People in Parliament.

VII. That a fair, equal, and impartial Representation can never take place until *all partial privileges* are abolished.

VIII. That,

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VIII. That, this Society do express their abhorrence of Tumult and Violence—aiming at Reform not Anarchy—Reason, Firmness, and Unanimity are the only arms, they themselves will employ, or persuade their fellow Citizens, to exert, against ABUSE OF POWER.

Signed by order of the Committee,

T. HARDY, SECRETARY.

April 2d, 1792.

The L O N D O N
C O R R E S P O N D I N G S O C I E T Y
T O THE
N A T I O N A T L A R G E.

Whereas it is notorious, that very numerous, burthensome, and unnecessary taxes are laid on the persons and families of us and others, the Industrious Inhabitants of Great Britain, and exceedingly great Majority of whom are, notwithstanding, excluded from all Representation in Parliament :

And as upon enquiry into the Cause of this Grievance, which is at once, an obstruction to our Industry and a Diminution of our Property, we find that the Constitution of our Country (which was purchased for us at the expence of the lives of our Ancestors) has, by the violence and Intrigue of Criminal and Designing Men, been injured and undermined in its most essential and important parts : but particularly in the House of Commons, where the whole of the supposed Representation of the People is neither more nor less than an Usurped Power, arising either from Abuses in the mode of Election and Duration of Parliaments, or from a Corrupt Property in certain decayed Corporations, by means of which the Liberties of this Nation are basely bartered away for the private profit of Members of Parliament:

And as it further appears to us, that until this Source of Corruption shall be cleansed by the In-

formation, Perseverance, Firmness, and Union of the People at large, we are robbed of the Inheritance so acquired for us by our Fore Fathers: and that our Taxes, instead of being lessened, will go on increasing, inasmuch as they will furnish more Bribes, Places, and Pensions to our Ministers and Members of Parliament.

It being resolved by us, the Members of this Society, to unite ourselves into one firm and permanent Body, for the purpose of informing ourselves and others of the exact State of the present Parliamentary Representation—for obtaining a peaceful but adequate Remedy to this intollerable Grievance—and for corresponding and co-operating with other Societies united for the same Objects. The following Regulations, for the internal order and government of our Society, have been unanimously adopted.

First. That every person, before he is admitted, shall be proposed by two Members, and shall answer in the affirmative to the three following Questions, viz.

Question I. *Are you convinced that the parliamentary Representation of this Country is at present inadequate and imperfect?*

Q. II. *Are you thoroughly persuaded that the welfare of these Kingdoms requires that every person of adult years, in possession of his reason and not incapacitated by crimes should have a vote for a member of Parliament?*

Q. III. *Will you endeavour by all justifiable means to promote such Reformation in Parliament?*

Secondly. That the whole Body shall go under one common name of *The London Corresponding Society, United for the Reform of Parliamentary Representation.*

Thirdly. That for the more easy and orderly proceeding of the Society, it be separated into as many Divisions as there shall be thirty Members, to make up the number requisite for such Division. And that no Division shall divide again, till it

amount

amount to double such number of Members; at which time notice shall be given to the Committee of Delegates, hereafter mentioned, by the then Delegate of such Division.

Fourthly. That each Division shall meet weekly, on any Evening (Thursday excepted) at some house to be chosen by themselves, and appoint a Chairman for the good order thereof: and also shall name a Delegate as hereafter mentioned.

Fifthly. That each Member shall pay to the Secretary of his Division One Penny per Week, or One Shilling and a Penny per Quarter, which shall be credited to the account of such Member in a Book to be kept for that purpose. That all Money so paid shall be transmitted Monthly by the Delegate of such Division, to the Treasurer, who is to account with the Body of Delegates for the same, on the four usual Quarter-days.

Sixthly. That the Sums so paid to the said Treasurer shall form one common Stock, to be applied by the said Delegates in the postage of Letters, in Stationery, and in Printing such matters as may be good for the Information of the Society. But that before any expence whatever shall be incurred, the said Delegates shall enquire of the Treasurer what ballance he has in hand.

Seventhly. That the Delegates so appointed shall meet on Thursday in every Week, and shall continue in Office for three months; subject, however, to be recalled or superceded by their several Divisions before the expiration of that time, if thought necessary. That being assembled, they shall name a Chairman and Secretary, who shall both sign all the public Acts of the Society.

Eighthly. That such Delegates so assembled, shall in the first place communicate the Wishes of their several Divisions, relative to any objects of the Society. That they shall be authorised to answer any Correspondence, which may require immediate attention; and afterwards, that each Delegate shall report the same to his respective Division.

vision. Also, that they shall consider of the general state of the Society; but shall on no account publish any New Principle, or Set of Principles, until the same shall be approved by a Majority of the Individual Members of the Society at large.

Ninthly. That it shall be necessary for Two Thirds of the said Delegates to form a Committee for the dispatch of Busines. And

Tenthly. That these Resolutions and Regulations be printed for the Members of the Society, and that a Copy be given to each Member on his admission.

MAURICE MARCAROT, CHAIRMAN.

THOMAS HARDY, SECRETARY

FORASMUCH as it is possible that the grounds of our Complaint may be denied, and that our Views and Principles may be misrepresented, we desire that every one will seriously consider and treasure in his memory the state of scandalous facts which follow.—Let him then ask himself, whether it be the part of a good Citizen to sit quiet under such abuses, which have not only increased, but are at this moment encreasing; and which ought therefore to be remedied without delay.

Till the reign of Henry VI. it was not necessary for the inhabitant of a County to have a Freehold estate of 40*s.* a year, in order to vote for the Representative of his County. But the Statute of that King, passed in the year 1429, under pretence of preventing disputes at Elections, most unjustly deprived a great part of the Commons of this Nation of the right of consenting to those Taxes which, notwithstanding, they were compelled to pay just as if such right had not been taken from them.

Till the reign of Queen ANNE, it was not necessary for the Inhabitant of a County to have 600*l.* a Year, Freehold or Copyhold Estate, in order

order to his being elected the Representative of his Country. But the Statute of that Queen, passed in the year 1710, under pretence of the Freedom of Parliament, excluded all persons not possessed of such a property from our Representation, whatever be their Principles, their Abilities, or their Integrity.

Till the Reign of WILLIAM III. Parliaments were of RIGHT to be called *Once a Year*, or oftener if need be. But the Statute of that King, passed in the year 1694, under pretence of calling them more frequently, enacted, that they, should be holden once in *Three Years* at the least.

Till the Reign of George I. Parliaments were therefore of Three Years duration. But the Statute of that King, passed in the year 1715, under pretence of a "restless Faction" then existing in the Nation, usurped a power of enacting, that "Parliaments should respectively have Continuance for Seven Years."

As for the supposed Representation of the People, which is called the "Commons of England in Parliament assembled;"

The County of Cornwall contains in itself alone the privilege of sending *Forty-Four* Members to Parliament, which is just one less in number than those of the whole Kingdom of Scotland, containing upwards of Three Millions of People.

Of thele *Forty-Four* supposed Representatives, two are elected by the Freeholders of the County: the rest fit for Twenty-One Corporation Towns; of which,

Electors

Launceston has only	10	& is the property of Lord Elliot
Liskeard	—	9
Leitwithiel,	—	7
Truro,	—	13
Bodmin,	—	18
Helston,	—	3
Saltash,	—	16
East Loe,	—	20
West Loe,	—	20
		{
		Judge Buller
		Ditto
		D. of Northumberland
		Lord Falmouth
		Sir Francis Bassett
		D. of Leeds, &c.
		Sir Francis Bassett

Grampound,

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Crampound,	—	30	—	—	Lord Somers, &c.
Camelford,	—	6	—	—	Lord Camelford
Penrhyn,	—	50	—	—	Sir Francis Basset
Tregony,	—	50	—	—	Lord Hertford
Boffiney,	—	20	—	—	Lord Bute
St. Ives,	—	60	—	—	Mr. Praed
Fowey,	—	26	—	—	Prince of Wales, &c.
St. Germains,	—	6	—	—	Lord Elliot
St. Michael,	—	14	—	—	D. of Northumberland.
Newport,	—	30	—	—	Lord Lovaine
St. Mawes,	—	15	—	—	M. of Buckingham
Callington,	—	30	—	—	Lord Falmouth.

Electors 453 Members 42

To these we might add, of the same description, twenty-eight Corporations, consisting of 354 Electors, which send 56 Members to that House of Commons, which is so frequently and so falsely called the Democracy of the Nation; while the Towns of Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Wolverhampton, &c. containing above three hundred thousand people, have no Electors or Representatives whatever.

Upon the whole it appears, that 257 supposed Representatives of the people, making a majority of the House of Commons, are returned by a Number of Voters not exceeding the thousandth part of the Nation.

But as Providence has kindly furnished men, in every station, with faculties necessary for judging of what concerns themselves, shall we, the Multitude, suffer a few, with no better right than ourselves, to usurp the power of governing us without Controul? Surely not—Let us rather unite in one common Cause, to cast away our Bondage, being assured, that in so doing, we are protected by a Jury of our Countrymen, while we are discharging a duty to ourselves, to our Country, and to Mankind.

ORDERED, that the Secretary of this Society, do transmit Copies of the above to all the Societies in the Nation, engaged in the same cause.

London, May 24, }
1792. }